

## DEATH-BED OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

"DR. BOGUE wrote an Essay on the Divine Authority of the New Testament, intended chiefly for the refutation of infidels, by a discussion of the principal objections which they make to Christianity. Of this important work the author sent a copy to Napoleon at St. Helena. The emperor read it with interest and satisfaction; and, if it did not completely lead him to the acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as his Saviour, it had a powerful influence in removing his doubts and producing some degree of conviction. After his death, this copy became the property of a non-commissioned officer, who taught English to the children of the emperor's attendants. Upon the return of the regiment to England, he presented it to Dr. Bogue, who accepted it with deep emotion.

"About the same time, the French Abbé Bonavita went from Paris, through Belgium and England, to St. Helena, in order to be the emperor's chaplain. In Belgium, he became acquainted with an Englishman, a zealous supporter of the Bible Society. They travelled together to London, and had much intercourse during the Abbé's stay in that city. The English gentleman availed himself of the opportunity to entrust to the abbé a splendidly bound bible, of a beautiful edition, begging him to present it to the unhappy exile. He thankfully undertook the commission,

saying that he was sure the emperor would highly value the present. This proved to be the fact. Persons fully entitled to credit, who attended Napoleon's dying bed, have declared that he assiduously read the Holy Scriptures; and that in the pangs of his severe malady, he often, with strong emotion, uttered the great name of Jesus.

"It may even be said, that he 'confessed Christ before men.' In a familiar but solemn conversation, he exclaimed, with the expressive accent and emphatic brevity, which had an electric effect, 'I know men; and I tell you that Jesus was not a man. His religion is a self-existent mystery; and it proceeded from a mind not human. There is in it a deep peculiarity of character which has produced a succession of doctrines and maxims till then unknown. Jesus borrowed nothing from human knowledge. Only in himself are found completely the example or the imitation of his life. Neither was he a philosopher; for his proofs were miracles, and his disciples from the very first adored him. In fact, science and philosophy are powerless to salvation; and the sole object of Jesus, in coming into the world, was to unveil the mysteries of heaven and the laws of mind. Alexander, Cæsar, Charlemagne, and I; have founded empires; but on what have we rested the creations of our genius? Upon force. Only Jesus has founded an empire upon love; and, at this moment, millions of men would die for him. It was not a day nor a battle that won the victory over the world for the Christian religion. No; it was a long war, a fight of three centuries; begun by the apostles, and continued by their successors and the flow of the Christian generations that followed. In that war, all the kings and powers of the earth were on one side; on the other side, I see no army, but a mysterious force, and a few men scattered here and there through all parts of the world, and who had no rallying point but their faith in the mysteries of the cross. I die before my time, and my body will be put into the ground to become the food of worms. Such is the fate of the great Napoleon! What an abyss between my deep wretchedness, and Christ's eternal kingdom, proclaimed, loved, adored, and spreading through the world! Was that dying? Was it not rather to live? The death of Christ is the death of God.'

"With these words Napoleon ceased; but General Bertrand making no reply, he added, 'If you do not *understand* that Jesus Christ is God, I have been wrong in calling you, general.'"—*Evangelical Magazine*.